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Mulberry Missionary Baptist Association

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MULBERRY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

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MINUTES,

SATURDAY, September 25, 1886.

The Churches of the Mulberry Baptist Association, by their delegates, met with Rehoboth Church four and one half miles west of Randolph, Bibb county, Ala., and by request the introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. W. Watson, from that portion of scripture recorded in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, 6th chapter, from 10th to 20th verses.

A recess was ihen given, during which time dinner was served.

At 2 o'clock the delegates assembled in the church house and engaged in singing, after which prayer was offered by the Clerk. Brother J. M. Thomas was then appointed to the Chair, who called the body to order and proceeded to business, as follows:

Brethren J. M. Kalin and W. J. Elliott were appointed reading committee.

The names of the churches were then called, the letters were received, read and the names of delegates enrolled, as follows:

Shady Grove-James Smithermar, * Joseph Helton, * Ben Sims, * Davis

Anticch—J. M. Langston,* J. M. Thomas, M. F. Merchant, Z. J. Corley, J. C. Hicks, A. G. Spinks, D. B. Smitherman, M. D. Langston.
Pleasant Hill—Benjamin Scott.* J. P. Robinson,* William Caton.*
Rehoboth—M. Longcrier, M. V. Lawl.y, G. M. Woolley, Thomas Col-

lins,* James Collins.
New Salem—T. G. Williams, Joseph Maddox, Jasper Maddox,
Jemison—A. E. Burnes, * N. L. Meroney, J. A. Skaggs, * L. J. Hand, *

J. M. Corderie. Liberty Hill-W. D. Z. Foshee, A. L. Foshee, Noah Littlejohn,* Jasper

Macedonia-James Nix, S. N. Waldrop, Adam Smith, W. Y. Nix, S. D. Posey.

Center Hill-Jesse Webb,* Thomas Cleckler,* J. B. Webb.*

Picasant Grove—J. M. Gothard, * John Gothard, Z. J. Jones, * D. Z. Merchant, Martin Pracidin. *

Providence—R. M. Honeycutt, J. B. Milstead, J. E. Champion, H. W. Houlditch, Harrison Houlditch, B. A. Dodson.

Mar's Hill-... J. Langston, James Scott,* F. M. Langston.*

The Moderator then appointed brothren J. M. Kalin and W. J. Eliott tellers.

V. J. Eliott tellers.

The Association voted by ballot for Moderator and Clerk.

J. M. Thomas was elected Moderator, and R. M. Honeycutt, Clerk.

On motion, omitted the reading of constitution, articles of faith and rules of decorum.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:
On Devotion—M. D. Laugston, Adam Smith and N. L. Me-

roney, with deacons of Rehoboth church.

On Arrangement of Business—S. M. Adams, Z. J. Corley,
D. Z. Merchant, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Finance-W, Y, Nix, A. L. Foshee, S. D. Posev.

On State Missions-M. Longerier, S. M. Latham, John Goth-

On Home Missions—T. G. Williams, G. T. Lee, S. N. Waldrop.

Foreign Missions-M. D. Langston, T. M. Henley, James Smitherman.

On Sabbath Schools—Thomas Collins, R. M. Honeycutt, R. J. Langston.

On Temperance—S. M. Adams, W. C. Ogletree, Oscar Spinks.

Then received correspondence, as follows:

From Shelby Association—Elder G. T. Lee, Dr. Teague, Elder W. J. Eliott.

From Unity Association—Sam Latham, T. M. Henley, C. C. Cellers, J. M. Kalin, Elder H. W. Watson.

From Cahaba—S. M. Adams, Luther Hicks, Elisha Whatley, Erve Mullins.

Returned correspondence, as follows:

To Shelby Association—M. D. Langston, Z. J. Corley, J. C. Hicks, W. H. Pratt, J. M. Thomas.

To Harmony Association-M. F. Merchant, James Smitherman,

To Unity—R. M. Honeycutt, A. E. Burns, T. L. Williams. To Cahaba—J. N. Gentry, S. D Posey, R. M. Honeycutt. The Devotional Committee offered the following report which was received:

Prayer meeting to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by S. D. Posey. Preaching at 11 o'clock by Elder G. T. Lee. Preaching at 2 o'clock P. M., by Dr. Teague.

Then opened the door for Churches. There was a letter presented by delegates from Friendship Church, Chilton County, Alabama, newly constituted, and was received. Names of delegates enrolled: W. C. Ogletree and Green Collins.

We then enjoyed a pleasant and interesting discourse from Dr. Teague on the subject of missions.

Then adjourned until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SABBATH, September 26, 1886.

The Brethren all filled their appointments according to the arrangement of the Devotional Committee, and we humbly trust that the labors of the day will not be in vam, but that the word preached may prove a savor of life unto life to all that heard.

MONDAY, September 27th, 1886.

After singing and prayer by Elder H. W. Watson, the Moderator called the body to order and proceeded to call the roll and marked absentees. Report of Committee on Arrangement of Business, was offered and received, and business taken up accordingly. Miscellaneous business was called for.

On motion, the Association reconsidered the receiving of

Friendship Church on Saturday last, and after discussing the matter of the Church being constituted by one minister only,

On motion, the Church was received, but the Association

advised against that practice.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following committees, whose duty is to report at the next session of this body:

Committee on Temperance-R. M. Honeycutt, Mathew

Longcrier, James Smitherman.

On State Missions-A. E. Burns, Rolleigh Smitherman, Adam Smith.

On Home Missions—E. H. Dunlap, J. C. Hicks, W. Y. Nix. On Foreign Missions—J. M. Langston, Z. J. Corley, R. J. Langston.

On Sabbath Schools-N. L. Meroney, Oscar Spinks, W.

H. Thomas.

On Education—L. J. Hand, Thomas Collins, George Woolley.

Trustees of Indigent Ministers-M. D. Langston, N. L.

Meroney.

Executive Committee on Sabbath Schools—N. L. Meroney, A. E. Burns, H. L. Hicks.

On Division of the Association into Districts-R. M.

Honeycutt, A. E. Burns, J. M. Gothard.

Committee to visit Mineral Springs Church and report the condition of the Church to the next session—R. M. Honeycutt, T. G. Williams, E. M. Beane.

On motion, agreed that we get and use for our church let ters to the Association, the blanks printed by the American

Baptist Publication Society.

Committee on State Missions offered the following report, which was received and Committee discharged:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee on State Missions, beg leave to report that the object of our State Convention in its work is the

HOWARD COLLEGE

spread of the Gospel to the entire territory under its juris? diction. This requires men and means; the men and the means should be forthcoming. The Mulberry Association places herself in sympathy with this great work and suggests to the churches composing the body to raise funds by the first of May next, and pay the same over by that time to aid in this good work.

Remember that just before our Lord and Master ascended to his throne in heaven, He gave us these marching orders, "Go ye, into all the world and preach my Gospel to every

creature." God help us to obey.

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. LATHAM, Ch'n.

Committee on Temperance offered the following report, and after amendment, it was received:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Intemperance is the greatest enemy of the human family; and especially strong drink. The dram-shop is the greatest enemy of the Church. The warfare between the Church and strong drink can not cease so long as the dram-shop is on earth. The whiskey traffic learns men to curse the God drain-supp is on carth. The whiskey trainc learns men to curse the God whose providence supplies their wants, while it leads them to despise and hate the Savior who redeemed them. It learns young men to disobey and dishonor their parents. It causes men to neglect and abuse their wives and children, whom they are bound to love, protect and cherish by every law of morals, whether human or divine. The dram-shop is a school for vice, a gate of ruin, a sink of iniquity and moral fithiness; the promoter of every thing that is low, brutal and devilish. From it has come the blackest crimes over written in the history of the past. So, brethren of the Mulberry Association, we are bound by the law of

Christ, and the love we have for virtue—in a word, by every thing and all things that are pure and good—to labor and pray until we are freed from the whiskey traffic.

We, as the Mulberry Association, denounce the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

Respectfully submitted,

S. M. ADAMS, Ch'n.

Committee on Home Missions, offered the following report which was received:

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Board had during the past conventional year, from July, 1885, to July, 1886, in whole, or in part of their time, two hundred and fifty brethren in its employ, and the labors of these men extend into sixty-five counties of the State. And the report of the Board to the last Convention shows that solid work was done by these Missionaries.

As time passes, the importance of this agency increases, and its hold on the denomination grows stronger every year. From time to time the Con-vention may find it necessary to make changes in plans of operation, but it is now quite certain that this agency will continue to be one of our cherished and most efficient enterprises; and the liberality of our churches, for it should be steadfast, and our benevolence in that direction constant. We earnestly trust, tha: every church in this Association will aid the Home Mission Board within the next year to the extent of their ability. Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS G. WILLIAMS, Ch'n.

Committee on Foreign Missions made a report, which was received.

The Association then agreed, and by promises proposed to raise \$117 during this associational year for the help of the mission work.

On motion, adjourned until 1 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SERVICES.

Called for report of Committee on Indigent Ministers. No Report.

There was then a voluntary collection taken up in favor of our aged Brother, Elder A. B. Hill, which amounted to \$9.70. The money delivered to the Clerk for Brother Hill.

Finance Committee offered the following report:

We your committee	on finance have received from the churches, fo	r min-
For misions	purposes	\$29 35
		16 75

Respectfully submitted, W.Y. Nix, Ch'n.

Committee on Sabbath Schools offered the following report:

REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools feel thankful to report: That according to the letters from the churches to us, the cause of Sabbath Schools in our Association is on the increase. There were only five Schools reported last year; this year there are eight, an increase of three above last year. These Schools reported this year all in flourishing condition. And believing that the Sabbath School work is a good work, we do earnestly recommend the brethren of this Association that we continue to push the work forward until we can have a school in all our churches. We further insist, that each church make a full report of their schools to the Association, so that our statistical table may be more complete, which we recommend to be printed in our minutes.

Respectfully submitted, R. J. LANGSTON, Ch'n.

On motion, agreed that we hold a Sabbath School Con-

vention during this Associational year; and that we recommend to our churches the use of Baptist Literature in their schools. This matter referred to the Executive Committee on Sabbath Schools.

On motion, agreed that the next session of this body be held with Pleasant Grove Church, four miles west of Jemison, Chilton county, Ala., commencing on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1887.

J. M. Thomas, to preach the Introductory Sermon; R. M. Honeycutt, alternate.

Resolved, That the Clerk, superintend the printing of four hundred copies of these minutes, and that he receive ten dollars for his services, and that Z. J. Corley be appointed distributing agent in first district, minutes sent to Randolph, and the Clerk to distribute in second district.

*Resolved**, That after the clerk has payed for minutes and other expenses,

that he send the balance of the money belonging to the Association to the Secretary and Treasurer of the State Mission Board, to be applied as the

Board may direct

The following Brethren were appointed as delegates to the next State Convention: Joab M. Langston. A. E. Burns, R. M. Honeycutt, J. M. Thomas, N. L. Meroney, L. J. Hand, W. G. Riggins, J. M. Gothard, T. G. Williams and S. D. Posey.

Resolved, That this Association tender their thanks to the members of Rehoboth Church, and the friends around, for their kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the messengers and visitors of this

Association.

On motion, adjourned.

J. M. THOMAS, Moderator

R. M. HONEYCUTT, Clerk.

Treasurer and Clerks Report: \$29 3 Received from Finance Committee. \$10 00 Clerk fees. Minio Peord	5
Clerk fees Brinting Minutes: balance to be sent to Mission Board.	

The next meeting of the First District will be held with Macedonia Church, Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1887.

Elder J. M. Langston, to preach the Introductory sermon; J. M. Thomas, Alternate. Subject for discussion.

1. "Is it our duty as Christians to send the gospel to the heathens "-Opened by S. D. Posey.

2. "What is the duty of a pastor to his churches."—Opened by Z. J. Corley.

The next meeting of the Second District will be held with Marshall Church, Saturday before the third Sunday in August, 1887.

W. G. Riggins, to preach the Introductory sermon; A. E. Burns, Alternate. Subject for discussion.

"What is the duty of Deacons as defined in the New Testament." Opened by R. M. Honeycutt.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Daniel Ward	Sir Mile Pibb Caust
A. B. Hill	Six Mile, Bibb County.
R M Honevoutt	Lomax, Chilton County.
R. M. Honeycutt	r Creek, Chilton County.
James M. Gothard	Inminer Child
	emison, Chilton County.

LICENTIATES.

J. M. Thomas S. D. Posey	Randolph Ribb Country
S. D. Posey	Pandalah Bibb County.
J. J. Lowery	Candolph, Bibb County.
D. A. Seale	r Creek, Chilton County.
D. 11. Ocale	Oakmulga, Perry County.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the different churches, chosen by their own bodies, in our union, who, on producing letters, certifying their appointment as delegates by their churches, shall be

entitled to seats.

The delegates thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Mulberry Baptist Association, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns. Nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz : If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction; and, if satisfaction cannot be thus obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the matter before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor she cannot reconcile, she shall call the aid of two or more churches to assist in the work; and, if the difficulty be not thus removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the Association, to be acted upon as above described. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

3. The churches of our union shall transmit, to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, restored, and deceased, since the last session; which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to a representation in the following manner, viz: A church containing fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three representatives, and one additional representative for every twenty-five over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described shall state reasons at the next Association.

5. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the

Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend accord-

ing to her own views.

7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association upon all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Convention.

8. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church who may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox

principles of the Gospel.

9. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes every

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be inserted in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile, and has failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries that immediately concern the general union of the churches,

sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be

taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. Any church in our union, having a member who she may think possesses promising talents for the ministry, she shall, after a thorough conviction that he is called of the Lord to work, proceed to license him to preach the Gospel, at discretion, and report the same at the next session of the Association.

13. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work, and all presbyteries, in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Articles

of Faith of this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied from the voluntary contribution of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their inessengers, and paid over to the committee on finance. The committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and substantial report of all their proceedings.

15. There shall be an Association Book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be regularly recorded by the Clerk, who shall

receive an annual compensation for his services.

16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand—except it be in extraordinary cases.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

18. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

19. Giving or withheld charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship by this Association.

20. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session, when two-thirds of the members present may deem neccesary.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ARTICLE I. We believe in one only living and true God—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace and never fall away. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that time believers are the only and an another's feet. 11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. 12. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is baptized, and comes under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery. 13. We believe that none but regularly baptized believers have a right to commune together at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present. 3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and have a discretionary right to call order at any time. 4. Any member not satisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time. 5. None but one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and on obtaining leave, proceed. 6. The Moderator, when addressed for permission to speak shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal attention. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it. 8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withd awn before another shall be offered. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debate the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject by yeas and nays, or otherwise. 10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the Moderator. 11. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without leave of the Association; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through. 12 The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association in their addresses to each other. 13. The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association may direct. 14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice that may tend to interrupt public speaking. 15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided. 16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, as directed by the Association-but only on the day the breach shall have been made. 17. The rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and shall be altered or amended when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

STATISTICS OF MULBERRY ASSOCIATION, 1886.

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CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	Sab. of Meeting.	Baptized.	Restored.	Excluded. Decreased.	Previous Number.	Present Number.	Money for Min- utes, etc.	Missions.	Pastor's Salary.	Other Ministers.	Repairs, etc.	Value of Church Property.	No. S Schools.	Teachers.	School Expenses.
Shady Grove. Rehobath Macedonia. Center Hill. Providence Pleasant Grove. New Salem Liberty Hill. Jemison. Mineral Springs. Waxahatchey. Pleasant Hill. Marr's Hill. Friendship.	R. M. Honeycutt, J. M. Gothard., J. M. Gothard., R. M. Honeycutt, A. E. Burns. A. E. Burns. A. E. Burns. N. Honeycutt, G. T. Lee. Not represented Not represented Jas. M. Gothard. J. M. Gothard. W. G. Riggins.	Randolph Randolph Randolph Randolph Jemison Clear Creek Jemison Strassburg Strassburg Jemison Strassburg Jemison Strassburg Jemison Strassburg		4 1 2 1 3 1 3 4 1 1 3 4 1 1 2		2 1	2 .	150 95 104 89 15 129 82 39 85	13	2 25 2 50 1 50 1 00 2 50 2 10 2 00 1 50 5 00 1 50 1 50	2 00 30 00	30 00 21 00 40 00 72 05 200 00	5 00	63 15	300 00 1000 00 200 00	1 1	8 6	0 9 50 3 25 0 25 00 8 9 15 32 50 9 40
Total					110 5	3 9 6	0 19 16	801	982	\$29 35	\$67 8	\$463 05	\$34 65	\$324 98	\$1500 O) 8	44 4:	20,879 65

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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